



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Biological Safety Program

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BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINETS

Certification, Maintenance, Moving and Disposal

Biological Safety Cabinets (BSCs) are the most widely used and accepted primary containment devices. When properly used in research and teaching activities involving the manipulation of hazardous biological agents, the biological safety cabinets are effective in controlling and containing aerosols and particulates.

BSCs must not be confused with other laminar flow devices or 'laminar flow clean benches'; in particular, horizontal flow clean benches that direct air towards the operator should not be used for handling infectious, toxic or sensitizing materials.

Correct use and maintenance of BSCs

The correct location, installation, testing and certification of biological safety cabinets are critical to its performance in containing aerosols.

- Biological Safety Cabinets must be certified annually and when moved or relocated (PHAC- CBS)
- Certification should be done by trained service personnel to CSA Z316.3-95 or NSF49 standards or subsequent modifications (Contact information for our local certifier – Con-Test- is found on the next page)
- Laboratory personnel must be trained in the correct use and maintenance.

Moving, Disposing or Certifying BSCs

Moving

Contact Con-Test prior to moving a BSC as it will require formaldehyde decontamination as well as surface disinfection before being moved. This includes scenarios where the cabinet is just being moved between bays in a lab or to another location on the same floor.

- Con-Test will decontaminate the BSC prior to moving and re-certify the unit after the move.
- Submit a Biosafety permit amendment to remove/add the BSC.

Disposing

The PHAC-Canadian Biosafety Standards (CBS) require that all 'contaminated materials and equipment leaving the lab for servicing or disposal must be appropriately decontaminated and labeled or tagged-out as such.'

- Contact Con-Test to decontaminate the unit

- Submit a Decommissioning of Lab Equipment Form to ehso@umanitoba.ca. A member of our office will check the unit and sign off and tag it (green sticker) for disposal.
- Submit a Biosafety permit amendment to remove the BSC from your Biosafety Permit.

Certification:

BSCs must be certified annual or after being moved or serviced.

- BSC owners receive a full certification report and a certification sticker that is placed on the BSC so that cabinet status can be easily checked by all users.
- The Biosafety Program is sent a copy of the report which is entered in our EHSA database and can be attached to the individual Biosafety permit information. This assists BSC owners in that these reports are not required to be submitted with permit and project approval applications.
- Con-Test service technicians contact BSC owners prior to the BSC certification expiry date and arrange for certifications to be grouped by location.

Other services provided by Con-Test

- HEPA filter replacement and other adjustment and/or repairs as required by the applicable standard or manufacturer's specifications to achieve certification. Emergency response services can typically be delivered within a reasonable response time (~48hours)
- Decontamination for decommissioning of a BSC for disposal or re-location. Formaldehyde or chlorine dioxide options are available.
- As well as annual testing and certification of BSCs, Con-test provides these services for laminar flow clean benches and incubators at the request of the owners.

Con-Test (<http://www.con-test.com/>) is our BSC certifier with a long history of service with the university and provides NSF field accredited service technicians.

To reach Con-Test to arrange for testing, servicing or repair of a Biological Safety Cabinet:

CON-TEST

20-520 Westney Rd S

Ajax ON L1S 6W5 Tel: (Toll Free) 1-800-321-3816

Winnipeg Contact:

David Philips david@con-test.com

Tel: (204)230-0140

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